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Conference of European Statisticians
Sixty-sixth plenary session
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Item 11 (a) of the provisional agenda
Programme of work of the Statistics subprogramme of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Reports on the work of the Conference of European Statisticians, its Bureau and Teams of Specialists

Implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistical Programme 2017

Note by the secretariat

Addendum

Report of the Conference of European Statisticians Bureau, 10-11 October 2017

Summary

The present report is submitted in compliance with the Rules Governing the Work of the Conference and its Bureau (ECE/CES/2007/8), adopted by the Conference of European Statisticians at its fifty-third plenary session. Referring to the Rules, the Bureau acts as a steering body of the Conference. The report includes decisions taken by the Bureau at its February 2017 meeting on the work carried out under the auspices of the Conference.

The report is submitted to the Conference of European Statisticians for information.

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I Introduction

1. The meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) was held in Yerevan, Armenia on 10-11 October 2017, hosted by the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia. The following members of the Bureau attended: Ms. M. Bruun (Chair, Finland), Mr. S. Mnatsakanyan (Armenia), Mr. K. Pesendorfer (Austria), Mr. A. Arora (Canada), Mr. M. Kristof (Croatia), Mr. J. Santaella (Mexico) and Mr. J. Pullinger (United Kingdom). The following permanent observers also attended: Mr. V. Sokolin, (CIS-STAT), Ms. M. Kotzeva (Eurostat), Mr. J. R. Rosales (IMF, representing Mr. L. M. Ducharme), Ms. M. Durand (OECD), and Ms. L. Bratanova (UNECE).

2. Ms. T. Luige (UNECE) served as Secretary of the meeting, backed up by Ms. A. Peltola (UNECE). The following staff of the UNECE Statistical Division also attended: Ms. I. Lalor, Mr. S. Vale and Ms. F. Willis-Nunez.

3. UN Statistical Division (UNSD) sent written comments on selected agenda items. The comments were presented to the Bureau and taken into account in the discussion.

II. In-depth reviews of selected statistical areas

A. Emerging issues in statistical communication

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/2 by Ireland

4. The Bureau conducted an in-depth review of emerging issues in statistical communication based on a paper by Ireland with input from Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany, UK and UNECE. Austria and OECD informed the Bureau about the outcomes of the OECD conference "The role of official statistics in an evolving communication society". The Bureau raised the following issues:

(a) There is strong support for considering statistical communication from a strategic viewpoint. The changing environment where official statistics operate pushes to redefine their relevance and role;

(b) Statistical organizations should look at communication strategies in a broader context of risk management and business continuity;

(c) Further work should focus on a common understanding at the strategic level of communication rather than trying to harmonize the actions and tactics;

(d) A broad range of topics could be examined. A strategic approach to communications, issue and crisis management, communication principles, measuring the success and impact of communication are of particular interest;

(e) The necessity to act in real-time environment (e.g., through tweets and social media) poses an additional challenge of how to make the subject matter and communications experts work together and who can be the spokesperson for official statistics;

(f) The work should use available material about communications from outside official statistics;

(g) It will be useful to establish priorities among the list of challenges in statistical communication identified through the review, and focus the work. It is important to share experiences and develop guidance based on good practices. The actions should be

considered in connection with work in other related areas, such as strategic partnerships, value of official statistics, capability development, etc.;

(h) It will be useful to get input from more countries about their challenges and issues in communication;

(i) Canada, France, Greece, Ireland, UK, Eurostat and OECD are interested to contribute to this work.

Conclusion:

5. The Bureau asked Canada and Ireland to make a proposal for follow up work to address the priority areas raised in the in-depth review for its October 2018 meeting. This will allow taking into account the outcome of the CES seminar on statistical communication in June 2018.

B. Gaps in gender statistics

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/3 by Mexico, 3 Add.1 by UNECE

6. The Bureau conducted an in-depth review of gaps in gender statistics based on a paper by Mexico and a supporting paper by the secretariat, and raised the following issues:

(a) Gender statistics remains of high interest to countries. It is a challenging area that creates a need for strong partnerships due to its cross-cutting nature and diversity of topics covered;

(b) The changing and often politically sensitive landscape of gender and gender identity in public discourse can lead to competing pressures: on one hand to produce more sex-disaggregated data, and on the other hand to avoid questions on sex and gender altogether;

(c) There was strong support for the main thematic priorities identified in the in-depth review paper, namely time-use surveys, unpaid work, and violence against women;

(d) The list of non-thematic priorities should include the use of new data sources and new technologies, especially in time-use surveys and household budget surveys;

(e) Efforts should focus on highlighting the merits of time-use surveys, the value of standardizing and harmonizing these surveys across countries, and the potential of modern tools and techniques for reducing the burden and cost. It would be useful to explore the reasons for resistance to conducting time-use surveys as part of NSOs' standard portfolios, and how such resistance could be reduced;

(f) Future work must build on what has already been done on time-use surveys in UNECE and other organizations. The work should align with and not duplicate current work in UNSD, UN Women, and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics;

(g) OECD, Eurostat and IMF will provide further information for the section of the review dealing with activities of international organizations in gender statistics.

Conclusion:

7. The in-depth review paper should be shared with the UNECE Steering Group on Gender Statistics and the participants of the UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics in November, to propose areas for focus within the agreed-upon priority areas.

8. The Bureau asked Mexico, with the help of the UNECE Steering Group, to incorporate additional inputs from international organizations in the paper, and to make a proposal for follow-up activities to address the issues raised in the in-depth review for the February 2018 Bureau meeting. This will be linked with the scheduled review of the terms of reference of the Steering Group on gender statistics.

III. UNECE Statistical Programme

A. Statistical Programme for 2018 and UNECE strategic framework for statistics 2020-2021

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/4 and 12 by UNECE

9. The Bureau discussed the draft UNECE Statistical Programme for 2018 and the UNECE strategic framework for the subprogramme on statistics for 2020-2021. Under the Statistical Programme, the various steering groups and task forces created by CES and its Bureau were considered. The terms of reference of the active groups are available at www.unece.org/stats/ToS.html.

Conclusion:

10. The Bureau adopted the Statistical Programme for 2018 subject to reflecting the suggestions made in the discussion on individual items presented below.

11. The Bureau adopted the Strategic Framework for 2020-2021. The Bureau asked the Secretariat to submit the Statistical Programme 2018 and the Strategic Framework 2020-2021 for adoption to the CES plenary session in June 2018.

B. National accounts

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2017/BUR/5 by the Group of Experts on National Accounts

12. The Bureau discussed the proposal of the meeting of the Group of Experts on National Accounts and the Steering Group on National Accounts to establish a standing body on national accounts under CES, and raised the following issues:

(a) The terms of reference of the standing body should ensure the continued streamlining of work between UNECE, Eurostat and OECD, and avoid any duplication. The possibility to label the outputs of the national accounts work done by UNECE, Eurostat and OECD as joint outputs should be pursued. The standing body should promote clear division of labour and give visibility to each organization for their work on national accounts;

(b) The group should support linking the work on the System of National Accounts (SNA) with SDGs to complement the work on implementation of the *CES Road Map on Statistics for SDGs*;

(c) The standing body should support implementation of 2008 SNA in all UNECE member countries. In doing so, it would also address emerging topics that relate to national accounts.

Conclusion:

13. The Bureau supported the idea of establishing a standing body on national accounts under CES. The Bureau asked the Secretariat to prepare, together with the Steering Group on National Accounts, terms of reference for the standing body, and present them to the CES Bureau in February 2018 for approval before submission to the UNECE Executive Committee in 2018.

C. Set of key climate change-related indicators

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/6 by the Task Force

14. The Bureau reviewed the terms of reference for the continuation of the work of the Task Force on a set of core climate change-related statistics, and raised the following issues:

(a) The United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA) requested the group to consider the financial flows related to climate change, and continue to work in coordination with UNCEEA. Close links to the development of SEEA should be maintained;

(b) The UNECE Steering Group on climate change-related statistics should continue the close engagement with climate experts through future Expert Fora.

Conclusion:

15. The Bureau approved the terms of reference for the Task Force on a set of core climate change-related statistics, and asked the Task Force to report back to the CES Bureau in February 2019. The Bureau encouraged the Expert Forum for producers and users of climate change-related statistics to discuss the progress of work and provide expert advice to the Task Force as needed.

D. Waste statistics

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/7 by the Task Force

16. The Bureau reviewed the work plan for the Task Force on waste statistics, and raised the following issues:

(a) The Task Force may seek advice from a wider group of experts without establishing a formal advisory board for that purpose;

(b) The Task Force should take into account user and policy needs related to waste statistics. For example, the OECD environmental performance review of Czechia includes a section on waste and circular economy. The carbon accounting framework should also be considered;

(c) Data on waste that are needed for policy making do not always come from official statistics. It would be important to consider the boundaries and different data sources, and how to deal with the non-official and official statistics;

(d) The work contributes to improved global waste statistics, and to developing a chapter on waste statistics in the *Manual on the Basic Set of Environment Statistics* being prepared by UNSD.

Conclusion:

17. The Bureau approved the work plan of the Task Force on waste statistics.

E. Measuring extreme events and disasters

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/8 by the Task Force

18. The Bureau reviewed the work plan for the Task Force on extreme events and disasters, and raised the following issues:

(a) The Task Force could review possible data sources outside of statistical systems, such as commercially available sources (e.g. from insurance companies);

(b) The Task Force should consider how to deal with confidentiality when making available data from the statistical system for management of extreme events and disasters. In some cases, statisticians may recommend to disaster risk experts to access other data sources without confidentiality limits, such as administrative sources;

(c) Statistical offices could help to reconstruct the history of extreme events, to review their impacts and assess disaster risks. Having information on previous disasters will help to decide what needs to be done when a similar disaster strikes;

(d) The Task Force on measuring extreme events and disasters met on 6 October and decided on some changes to the work plan.

Conclusion:

19. The Bureau approved the work plan of the Task Force on measuring extreme events and disasters in principle. The Bureau asked the Task Force to provide an updated work plan (taking into account the recent changes) and progress report to the Bureau in February 2018.

F. Strategic partnerships

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/9 by Canada and United Kingdom

20. The Bureau reviewed the work plan on strategic partnerships, and discussed the planned high-level seminar and conducting a survey of national statistical offices to collect information on their experiences and challenges in this area. The Bureau raised the following issues:

(a) The objectives of the seminar should reflect that, as a first meeting, it is intended to highlight opportunities, successes and failures rather than provide guidelines;

(b) The part of the seminar with the participation of external partners should focus on their expectations and opportunities, and create a positive image of potential partnerships with statistical offices. This part of the seminar could take place first, to allow the statistical community to reflect on the outcomes of the discussions;

(c) It is important to identify and invite the right people from among external partners, such as businesses, academia, civil society, etc. The seminars held by OECD and Eurostat on related topics can provide ideas;

(d) The partnerships with standards' bodies and with "trusted third-parties" such as academia could be considered, as well as networks of partners. It will be good to see what kind of legal, organizational and financial models for partnerships are used, and to cover different experiences.

(e) Case studies of both successes and failures should be considered at the seminar. France and Mexico could present their experience from partnerships with mobile telephone companies;

(f) The need for partnerships in the context of statistics for SDGs could be considered. On one hand, this can attract attention and increase participation. On the other hand, the issue of partnerships is much wider and there is a risk of diverting the focus of the meeting to SDG issues.

Conclusion:

21. The Bureau approved the work plan on strategic partnerships, including organizing a high-level seminar on 11-12 April 2018, and surveying statistical organizations. The Bureau asked the group that developed the proposal to report back on the outcomes of the seminar to the October 2018 meeting of the Bureau.

G. Geospatial data and statistics

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/10 by UNECE

22. The Bureau discussed the developments concerning collaboration between UNECE and the European group of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM: Europe), and raised the following points:

(a) Greater integration of the statistical and geospatial communities is needed;

(b) The proposal for collaborative work goes in the right direction but the process should move faster;

(c) UNECLAC and UNECA found the necessary human resources to support and service the geospatial activities in their regions. Similar resources are also needed in UNECE;

(d) The 2020 round of population and housing censuses is an opportunity to increase collaboration;

(e) A broad partnership is needed covering not just data access but also the use of data in areas such as climate change and disaster monitoring;

(f) There is an interdependence between the use of geospatial data for statistical production and dissemination (e.g., satellite imagery can be used in both);

(g) Confidentiality and charging for data are issues that need to be addressed when cooperating with national mapping and cartographic agencies. Official statisticians can provide advice on how to deal with confidentiality issues;

(h) Building trust and relationships at the level of top management is a key. A high-level seminar bringing together heads of national statistical, mapping and cartographic agencies would be useful. A first step could be to invite representatives of the UN-GGIM: Europe Executive Committee to a CES Bureau meeting and/or to have a joint session;

(i) UK would be ready to lead a group/network on geospatial information management.

Conclusion:

23. The Bureau supported the proposals for greater collaboration between UNECE and UN-GGIM: Europe. The Bureau stressed the importance of allocating sufficient resources in the UNECE Secretariat to support closer integration of statistics and geospatial information.

24. The Bureau expressed willingness to invite representatives of the UN-GGIM: Europe Executive Committee to a CES Bureau meeting or organize a joint session. Eurostat offered to include UNECE in the organization of the joint annual conferences of Eurostat and UN-GGIM: Europe in future.

H. Developing capabilities in official statistics

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/11 by UNECE

25. The Bureau discussed the priorities in developing capabilities in official statistics, and raised the following issues:

(a) It is important to align capacity development activities to national priorities, not primarily to the agendas of donor organizations, and to take into account absorption capacity in the countries;

(b) Capability development should be results oriented and take into account the costs and benefits;

(c) The more analytical approach based on capabilities and maturity models proposed by UNECE was welcomed;

(d) Capability development should be seen as a public good, and where possible, should be targeted at groups of countries rather than individual countries;

(e) UNECE is uniquely placed to help the countries in the eastern part of its region;

(f) New data sources are likely to be a priority area for capacity development in the next few years.

Conclusion:

26. The Bureau asked the Secretariat to prepare a Statistical Capability Development Strategy and present it to the February 2018 Bureau meeting, with the aim of submitting it to the 2018 CES plenary session for endorsement.

I. Guidelines on national reporting platforms

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/22 and Add.1 by Task Force on National Reporting Platforms

27. The Bureau reviewed the draft *Guidelines on national mechanisms for providing data on SDG indicators* and the *Description of National Reporting Platforms* (NRPs), and raised the following issues:

(a) The documents are very useful for practical work in the countries for setting up mechanisms to provide data on SDGs. For example, Armenia has used the guidelines extensively in establishing their system of disseminating SDG indicators for the country;

(b) The documents can be interpreted as recommending a specific solution for the SDG data flows which have not yet been agreed at the global level. Therefore it may be better to publish them not as guidelines but as a description of possible platforms and how to decide whether to set up such a platform. The documents should be in line with the decisions by the IAEG-SDGs and the UN Statistical Commission;

(c) The issue is not only the data flows but also the governance of SDG reporting. The guidelines strongly support the key role of national statistical offices in the coordination of statistics for SDGs;

(d) Custodian agencies may approach different national organizations for the SDG indicators and bypass NSOs. The coordination in practice may be difficult even when NSO has been officially given the coordination role for providing data for SDGs. National Reporting Platforms can be one way to make the coordination happen;

(e) A platform for providing the SDG data should not be a stand-alone system but an integral part of the statistical production and dissemination processes. These platforms should be in line with SDMX standards to enable multiple and easy access to the data. Setting up separate platforms may divert the focus from the compilation of high-quality information.

Conclusion:

28. The Task Force on National Reporting Platforms will revise the documents to take into account comments made by the Bureau, and publish them under the responsibility of the Steering Group.

IV. Follow-up to the 2017 plenary session

A. Evaluation of the 65th plenary session

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/13 by UNECE

29. The results of evaluation questionnaires of the 2017 CES plenary session were presented for information. The 2017 CES plenary session received the highest evaluation so far (since 2003 when the evaluation questionnaires were introduced). The Bureau asked the Secretariat to continue to explore ways to allow interactive participation of the audience in the CES discussions.

B. Follow- up to the CES 2017 seminar on measuring poverty; Guide on Poverty Measurement

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/14, 14 Add.1 and Add.2 by the Task Force

30. The Bureau reviewed *CES Guide on Poverty Measurement*, revised after the 2017 CES plenary session. The Bureau also reviewed the terms of reference for a Task Force on disaggregated poverty measures. The following issues were raised:

(a) The Task Force should consider new ways to capture poverty in light of leaving no-one behind, such as looking at modern slavery, destitute, traveller communities, illiterate people etc. It should consider the disaggregations required for SDG reporting related to poverty;

(b) It will be important to work on multidimensional poverty measures that enable an individual's viewpoint and a narrative that empowers people to take action. The perspective of the most marginalized people in society will be important;

(c) The Task Force should also consider the disaggregations relating to gender, and coordinate its work with the Task Force on institutional populations. The work has links to the measurement of wealth of households;

(d) Mexico plans to translate the *Guide on poverty measurement* into Spanish;

(e) Canada, Mexico, Eurostat and OECD expressed willingness to participate in the Task Force.

Conclusions

31. The Bureau approved the revised *CES Guide on Poverty Measurement.* The Bureau approved the terms of reference of a Task Force on disaggregated poverty measures subject to taking into account the comments made by the Bureau.

C. Follow-up to the CES 2017 seminar on the next generation of statisticians and data scientists

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/15 by Finland

32. The Bureau discussed follow-up work to the 2017 CES seminar on the next generation of statisticians and data scientists based on a proposal by the seminar organizer, Finland. The discussion mainly focused on the use of hackathons. These activities can produce excellent results in a short timeframe and motivate people. However, innovation cannot rely only on hackathons. Hackathons should be used in addition to other activities and as part of a long-term agenda.

Conclusion:

33. The Bureau supported the follow-up actions listed in the paper and asked the High-Level Group on the Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS) to take up in its work the recommendations in para 7 of the document. The Bureau will take stock of HLG-MOS activities at its February 2018 meeting.

V. Preparation of the CES 2018 plenary session

A. Organization of the 2018 CES seminar on "Measuring what matters – broadening official statistics"

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/16 by Poland in collaboration with Israel, New Zealand, Slovakia and UNECE

34. The Bureau discussed the organization of the 2018 CES seminar on "Measuring what matters – broadening official statistics" based on an outline prepared by the Seminar Organizer, Poland, in collaboration with Israel, New Zealand, Slovakia and UNECE.

35. The Bureau agreed with the proposed outline of the seminar and noted that outputs from this work should be interactive and electronic, rather than paper publications. Statistics Denmark has done some work in this area, and may present their experience.

Conclusion:

36. The seminar will take place on Monday, 18 June 2018, starting at 09:40 and finishing at 15:30. The seminar organizers will proceed with the preparations and will present an updated proposal for the seminar to the February 2018 Bureau meeting.

B. Organization of the 2018 CES seminar on "Getting our message across: Strategic reflections on modernizing statistical communication"

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/17 by Albania in collaboration with Mexico, Montenegro, the Netherlands and UNECE

37. The Bureau discussed the organization of the 2018 CES seminar on "Getting our message across: Strategic reflections on modernizing statistical communication" based on an outline prepared by the Seminar Organizer, Albania, in collaboration with Mexico, Montenegro, the Netherlands and UNECE. The Bureau agreed with the proposed outline of the seminar with the following comments:

- The keynote speech from the Netherlands should discuss the outcomes and lessons learned from their new communication strategy. For example, how the efforts to modernise communication are perceived by the public;
- An interesting speaker would be an expert in psychology of how people perceive information. For maintaining its relevance, official statistics should tell stories that reach both the hearts and minds of the audience;
- Eurostat and OECD offered to contribute papers.

Conclusion:

38. The seminar will take place on Tuesday, 19 June 2018, starting at 09:30 and finishing at 15:30. The seminar organizers will proceed with the preparations and present an updated proposal for the seminar to the February 2018 Bureau meeting, taking into account the recommendations by the Bureau.

C. Draft agenda and timetable for the 2018 CES plenary session

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/18 by UNECE

39. The 66th CES plenary session will take place on 18-20 June 2018 in Geneva, back-to-back with the OECD Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy. The Secretariat will prepare an updated timetable of the 2018 CES plenary session for the February 2018 meeting of the Bureau.

IV. CES Guidelines and recommendations for endorsement in 2018

A. Leading, composite and sentiment indicators

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/19 and 19/Add.1 by the Task Force

40. The Bureau reviewed the progress of work in preparing the *Guidelines for producing leading, composite and sentiment indicators*, and made the following comments:

- The draft guidelines are very useful as these types of indicators are becoming more common;
- The guidelines should clarify and give guidance on the possible role(s) of national statistical offices in producing leading, composite and sentiment indicators;
- There are many different types of composite and leading indicators, therefore it is difficult to have detailed generic guidelines that apply to all. The Guidelines should focus on main issues, such as communication;
- Seminars to exchange experiences are useful. They may be organised to focus on one or two types of indicators, rather than trying to cover all;
- UNSD offered to organize a global consultation of the guidelines, and seek possible endorsement at the global level.

Conclusion:

41. The Bureau extended the mandate of the Task Force until June 2019 to allow for enough time for finalising the draft guidelines. The interim guidelines will be submitted to the CES plenary session for comments in 2018. Following the plenary session, the updated guidelines will be again considered at the October 2018 meeting of the Bureau, and be submitted to the CES 2019 plenary session for endorsement.

B. Entrepreneurship statistics

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/20 and 20/Add.1 by the Task Force

42. The Bureau reviewed progress of work and the outline of the *Guidelines on the production of entrepreneurship statistics*, and made the following comments:

- The scope of the Guidelines should be clarified, particularly the relationship with business demography statistics. Measuring globalization and managing complex business structures is not in the scope of the Guidelines. Using data that already exists to measure entrepreneurship is well covered;
- It would be useful to include material on sources other than business registers, for example, economic censuses. This would be particularly useful for countries that do not yet have fully developed business registers;
- Integrating data from multiple sources, including business registers, is becoming increasingly important;
- The Guidelines should also refer to work done by other groups in this area, such as Eurostat, OECD, etc., to ensure harmonization across organizations.

Conclusion:

43. The Task Force will finalize the draft guidelines taking into account comments by the Bureau. The Secretariat will circulate the Guidelines for electronic consultation among all CES members in view of submitting them for endorsement at the 2018 CES plenary session.

VII. Principles of rotation of the members of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and the High-level group on partnership, cooperation and capacity building for the 2030 Agenda (HLG-PCCB) in the UNECE region

Documentation: ECE/CES/BUR/2017/OCT/21 by UNECE

44. The Bureau discussed the criteria for rotation of the members from the UNECE region in the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and the High-level group on partnership, cooperation and capacity building for the 2030 Agenda (HLG-PCCB). The Bureau raised the following issues:

- The principles for the rotation of members in these groups should be agreed and made public;
- There should be common principles at the global level, an issue that should be raised with UNSD and UNSC;
- The work should be open and transparent. It is very important to keep non-member countries informed about the discussions in the groups. The IAEG-SDGs and HLG-PCCB members should consult with other countries from their sub-region;
- It is important to maximise representation from the different sub-regions, taking into account that there is an overlapping membership between some Regional Commissions.

Conclusion:

45. The Bureau will continue the discussion to agree on the principles of rotation of the members of these groups in UNECE region. The Bureau asked the secretariat to prepare an updated draft document for its meeting in February 2018.

VIII. Dates and venue of next meetings

46. The Bureau confirmed the dates and venues for its forthcoming meetings as follows:

- 14-15 February 2018 (Helsinki);
- 16-17 October 2018 (Geneva);
- Beginning of March 2019 (Washington D.C., back-to-back with the UN Statistical Commission).

47. The 66th CES plenary session will take place on 18-20 (a.m.) June 2018 in Geneva, back-to-back with the meeting of the OECD Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy.

48. The 67th CES plenary session will take place on the week of 17 June 2019 in Paris, back-to-back with the meeting of the OECD Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy.

IX. Other business

49. The Secretariat thanked Eurostat, OECD and CIS-Stat for the continuous good cooperation and collaboration in supporting the statistical development for the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

50. All finalized papers of the CES Bureau meeting are available on the public web page: www.unece.org/index.php?id=43850